

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Implant used in procedures for stiffening the vertebral column, ~~characterized in that the implant is formed by~~ comprising an enclosed hollow body ~~comprising~~ which includes at least two movable open receptacles (3, 4), oriented toward one another which interlock, and can be spread apart by inserting a filling material or by utilizing a filling material made of an elastomer (12) in order to expand the hollow body (1).
2. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein there are two of the open ~~interlocked~~ receptacles (3, 4) which interlock.
3. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 and 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the implant can be connected to a supply hose (6).
4. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ an other end of the supply hose (6) ~~can be connected~~ is adapted for connection to a device used to generate a filling pressure.
5. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 3, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ an opening (8) for connecting the supply hose (6) is also used for attaching an instrument (5) used to insert the hollow body (1).
6. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the filling material is made of a tissue compatible, liquid or initially liquid phase, self hardening material.
7. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims~~

~~1 to 6, characterized in that~~ the hollow body is structured or coated on one part or over an entire surface thereof.

8. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ the receptacles (3,4) forming the hollow body are sealed with one another.

9. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ the receptacles (3,4) forming the hollow body are adjustable relative to each other, whereby adjusting movement is limited to a certain area, which ensures a mutual overlapping of the receptacles (3,4).

10. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the adjusting movement between the two receptacles (3, 4) is limited through a screw (9) in one of the two receptacles catching in a slit (10) in the other of the two receptacles.

11. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the elastomer (12) is filled into an inner portion of the hollow body (1).

12. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 11, wherein ~~claim 1 or 11, characterized in that~~ the elastomer (12) completely or partially fills the hollow body (1).

13. (Currently amended) Implant according claim 11, wherein ~~claims 1, 11 and 12, characterized in that~~ the elastomer (12) filled into the hollow body (1) is loosely or firmly fitted to an inner side wall of the hollow body (1).

14. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ inner surfaces of upper and bottom wall (16, 15) of the interlocking receptacles (3,4) of the hollow body (1) penetrate into the filled in elastomer (12) when compressed.

15. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a hollow space is left below the filled-in elastomer (12), which is between the elastomer (12) and a bottom wall (15) of the interlocked receptacles (3,4) of the hollow body (1).

16. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterized in that~~ an airtight air bubble (17) is incorporated in the elastomer (12).

17. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claim 1 or one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the hollow body is compressed to minimum height before implantation and a device, such as a clamping screw (18), is attached to the hollow body (1) to expand the hollow body (1) after implantation.

18. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claim 1 or one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ an exterior one of the receptacles (3) of the hollow body (1) has a wedge shaped insertion end (10).

19. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of the claims 1 to 18, characterized in that~~ the implant is manufactured from metal, polymer or a composite material.

20. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 19, wherein ~~characterized in~~

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~~that~~ in manufacture using polymer or composite material, elements or material are incorporated in the implant that produce radiological shadows.

21. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 to 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the receptacles (3, 4) of the hollow body (1) can be pressurized
and have a form of a partial cylinder or prism, whereby base and cover plates are
included that are even or slightly arched and are positioned parallel or slightly
slanted relative to each other.

22. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 and 11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ the implant includes a connection for attaching an
implantation instrument.

23. (Currently amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 to 22,~~
~~characterized in that~~ a surface of the implant is structured and/or coated.